

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IR

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF ANTI-SHAH PLOTTERS CONCLUDES

REF: TEHRAN 137

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING FOUR-DAY TRIAL, MILITARY TRIBUNAL JANUARY 9 CONVICTED ALL 12 PERSONS ACCUSED OF PLOT TO ASSASSINATE/KIDNAP SHAH AND MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL FAMILY. SEVEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, TWO GIVEN FIVE-YEAR PRISON TERMS AND THREE GIVEN THREE-YEAR SENTENCES. STATEMENTS OF DEFENDANTS, ALL OF WHOM BELONG TO IRANIAN INTELLECTUAL CLASS, MARKED BY MUTUAL ACCUSATIONS, PRAISE FOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION AND GENTLE TREATMENT METED OUT BY SECURITY FORCES, AND PLEAS FOR IMPERIAL CLEMENCY. AS IN PAST TRIALS, DEFENDANTS NOT PERMITTED TO MAKE PHILOSOPHICAL JUSTIFICATION OF THEIR DEEDS BUT UNLIKE MOST FORMER CASES, PROSECUTION MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINK BETWEEN PLOTTERS AND IRAQIS OR OTHER FOREIGN ENEMIES OF IRAN. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER BRIEF FOUR-DAY TRIAL, MILITARY TRIBUNAL BROUGHT IN VERDICT OF GUILTY AGAINST ALL 12 PERSONS WHO ALLEGEDLY PLOTTED TO ASSASSINATE/KIDNAP SHAH AND MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL FAMILY. SENTENCES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. TEIFUR BATHAI--DEATH
2. KHOSROW GOLESORKHI--DEATH
3. MANOUCHEHR MOQADDAM SALIMI--DEATH

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4. KERAMATOLLAH DANESHIAN--DEATH

5. ABBAS ALI SAMAKAR--DEATH
6. MOHAMMAND REZA ALLAMEHZADEH--DEATH
7. RAHMATOLLAH JAMSHIDI--DEATH
8. MARYAM ETTEHADIEH (WOMAN)--5 YEARS
9. MORTEZA SIAHPUSH--5 YEARS
10. SHOKUH FARHANG (WOMAN)--3 YEARS
11. EBRAHIM FARHANG--3 YEARS
12. FARHAD QEISARI--3 YEARS

2. DEFENDANTS' STATEMENTS CHARACTERIZED BY MUTUAL ACCUSATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY BUT, ACCORDING PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS, NO ONE ACUTALLY ADMITTED THAT HE OR SHE WANTED TO HARM THE EMPRESS OR THE CROWN PRINCE. MRS. FARHANG CLAIMED TO HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH AUTHORITIES AND AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO LOAD MUCH OF THE BLAME ONTO GOLESORKHI AND SALIMI, WHO WERE IN PRISON DURING PERIOD WHEN MUCH OF THE PLOT WAS HATCHED. ALL BUT GOLESORKHI AND DANESHIAN, WHO REFUSED RENOUNCE MARXISM-Leninism, REPENTED OF THEIR ACTIONS AND BELIEFS AND MANY MADE PLEAS FOR IMPERIAL CLEMENCY LACED WITH (BY-NOW STANDARD) PLAUDITS FOR MONARCH AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION. NEW TWISTS INCLUDE PRAISE FOR GENTLY AND CONCERNED TREATMENT WHICH ACCUSED RECEIVED AT HANDS OF SECURITY FORCES WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS PATRIOTIC TEACHERS RATHER THAN TORTURERS.

3. ADHERING TO PAST PRACTICE, TRIBUNAL REFUSED TO PERMIT ANY OF ACCUSED TO USE THEIR TRIAL AS A FORUM FOR EXPRESSION OF THEIR BELIEFS AND TREATED ALL CHARGES AS CRIMINAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL. PROSECUTION, IN MINOR DEPARTURE FROM USUAL FORM, MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONNECTION BETWEEN PLOTTERS AND FOREIGN ENEMIES OF IRAN OTHER THAN THROUGH VEILED REFERENCES TO QTE THE ENEMY UNQTE AND QTE DIABOLIC MIND-MANIPULATORS UNQTE. COMMENT: TRIAL WAS OF INTEREST IN THAT IT WAS FIRST ANTI-STATE PROCESS IN WHICH ALL DEFENDANTS WERE LK FIRAIA INTELLECTUAL CLASS. FOR THAT REASON UNEXPECTED BREVITY OF PROCEEDINGS MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO FINISH WHOLE AFFAIR WITH AS LITTLE FUSS AND EMBARRASSMENT TO GOI AS POSSIBLE. IT MAY ALSO BE SIGNIFICANT THAT TRIAL WAS FIRST TO TAKE PLACE WHILE SHAH IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

HELMS

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